

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1668 - SB 1768

March 29, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes the Tennessee Gun Owners Improvement Act. Establishes where certain weapons are prohibited and where certain weapons are authorized. Authorizes local governments to prohibit handguns in local parks. Deletes prohibition of the Department of Environment and Conservation changing signs at entrances of state parks to reflect certain handgun laws. Specifies that employers may prohibit employees from carrying firearms and ammunition while carrying out job duties, but may not prohibit employees from locking firearms in vehicles. Authorizes private individuals and entities to prohibit weapon possession at meetings or on their own property, except weapons in locked vehicles. Authorizes state and local governments to prohibit possession of weapons in any building or portion of a building owned, operated, managed, or under control of the government. Prohibitions do not apply to business or residential lessees. Deletes Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1308 relative to the defense of unlawful possession or carrying of a weapon. Deletes requirement for firearm purchasers to provide a social security number. Authorizes the adjustment of fees collected by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) for criminal background checks. Decreases, from 30 to 15 days, the time period required for the TBI to conduct a background check to determine the eligibility of an applicant for a handgun permit. Requires TBI to conduct an inquiry of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System as part of its background check. Decreases, from 90 to 45 days, the timeframe in which the Department of Safety must issue or deny an applicant a handgun permit.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$179,800/One-Time

Assumptions:

- The Department of Safety will require computer programming changes and require changes to the application for permits. One-time programming costs for an outside contractor will be \$56,925. One-time costs to modify and print applications will be \$43,200.
- The Department of Environment and Conservation will replace 159 signs at 53 state parks at an average cost of \$240 each. A one-time increase in state expenditures of \$38,160 (159 signs x \$240).
- According to TBI, \$15,000 in one-time computer programming will be required by the vendor, Tailored Solutions.

HB 1668 - SB 1768

- TBI will need one temporary employee for one year to assist in the implementation of this bill. There will be a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$26,500.
- According to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, there would be no fiscal impact as a result of allowing handgun carry permit holders to possess weapons in Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) inside state parks; permit holders are currently authorized to carry in all other WMAs.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

/jaw